

Bianca, Pam

From: Schaeffer, Edward
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 10:42 AM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB5210

Hello,

I got this from a constituent of Rep Dubitsky concerning HB 5210 which was heard at a public hearing on 1/29. Is it too late for this to be included with the public record? I thought it was but figured I at least ry.

Best,

Ed

Dear State Representatives,

I own a horse farm in Stamford which comes under the category of an Agricultural Employer and therefore has certain requirements to comply with in accordance with the State of Connecticut Department of Labor. One of those regulations regarding Connecticut Unemployment Compensation Law states:

"Agricultural Employer - You will be subject if you employed 10 or more agricultural workers for some portion of the day during any twenty calendar weeks, or if you paid \$20,000 or more cash remuneration of agricultural services during any calendar quarter of the current or proceeding year."

As one of the few farms still operating in Fairfield County, I feel that I am at a disadvantage vis-a-vis other farms elsewhere in the State of Connecticut due to the higher labor costs that are specific to my locality. Also, I feel that this regulation needs to be updated to reflect the rising costs of labor over the past few decades. These thresholds should be modified upward so that the wording states "20 employees or more" instead of the current "10 employees or more" and more importantly that the cash remuneration per calendar quarter should be increased to "\$40,000 or more" instead of the current "\$20,000 or more" ?

These requests are very important as to whether farms like ours continue or eventually cease operating. Our desire is to continue to operate as a farm and grow. I will not be able to do so if I'm subject to an Unemployment Tax retroactively applied if and when I pass the current regulated thresholds.

In summary, I am supporting HB 5210 which attempts to address the above described concerns.

Respectively,

George C. Mead

MEAD FARM
107 June Road
Stamford, CT 06903-3716